





# COLONIST AND CHRONICLE.

Tuesday Morning, June 26, 1886.

## The Address to the Throne.

The legislative mountains labored heavily last week, and brought forth something more than a "mouse"—an address to the Throne, occupying a column and a half of yesterday's paper. We have no desire whatever to disparage the document; far from it. We regard it not as a "ridiculous mis," but as a sensible, straightforward and truthful exposition of the state of affairs in these Colonies, showing boldly and clearly the necessity that calls for retrenchment and immediate union; perhaps the recent telegrams despatched to the Imperial Government could hardly have been explained in fewer words. The only matter of regret is that so many golden opportunities for exerting an important influence over the determinations and actions of Downing street in reference to our Colonial grievances and requirements should have been lost, while the only potent effort put forth at a time when its efficacy is likely to be of no avail. The probabilities are that the long-talked-of bill for the union of the Colonies will have been submitted to Parliament, and the whole question determined before even the telegram can reach its destination, and that by the time the address arrives in England the recess will have taken place. Lingering on in the vain hope that each successive mail would announce the consummation "so devoutly to be wished," the Legislature has been more content to effervesce in words than to deal in actions. There is a limit, however, even to the endurance of the people of Vancouver Island, and the evil effects of our present system of government, and our unnatural severance and estrangement from the sister Colony are pressing upon us more sorely than the people can bear. If the rumor published yesterday in respect to the refusal of the Imperial sanction to the bill imposing differential duties on goods imported into British Columbia from this Colony, be a fact, which we have every reason to believe it is, one crying evil has been removed, and the iniquity of our fellow colonists recoils upon themselves. But the relief sought cannot end there; the essential prayers of the petition, viz., "Immediate Legislative Union," and an economical civil list for the united colonies, are necessary to the recovery of this Colony from its present state of impotency. So far we endorse the action of the Assembly, but when we come to examine the Civil List proposed for the united Colonies, we feel bound to dissent from the first item. The Assembly asks the Imperial Government, on the one hand, to appoint a Governor to rule over the vast extent of country embraced in these two Colonies who shall be "possessed of large experience," and offers him at the same time a stipend of £2000 for his valuable experience! The pay is only equal to what the Governor of St. Helena, an island 21 miles in circumference receives for ruling over that vast extent of territory and to the salaries of the Governors of Newfoundland, Bahamas and Sierra Leone, while it is £1000 less than that paid to the Governor of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Antigua. £746 less than is paid to the Governor of Bermuda; £2000 below Barbadoes; £1500 below Trinidad; £3000 below Gibraltar, Malta and Hongkong; £1500 below New Zealand; £5000 below Mauritius or Ceylon. Whence then, is the experienced man to be obtained? from the gold coast, Labuan, Heligoland or the Falkland Islands? Will the "experienced man" be forthcoming for the money? We think not. It would have been wiser we consider, not to attempt to fetter the hands of Mr. Cardwell by such a restriction in the selection of the future Governor of these Colonies, or we may once more experience the force of the moral in the fable of Jupiter and the frogs. The other points touched upon in the address, viz.: the importance to Colonial and Imperial interests of steam communication with Panama; in promoting British sentiment in this part of the world; and "in paving the way for greater undertakings of the kind," and our inability to secure the advantage without a helping hand from the maternal government; the unprecedented efforts heretofore made by the few tax payers of both Colonies in self support and internal improvements, in the payment of large mail subsidies to foreign steamboat companies; and the general faith in the mineral and other numerous resources of these Colonies are well introduced and cannot fail to carry weight with the Home Government.

## Vancouver Island and British Columbia.

[From the London "Times" of April 25, 1886.]

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.]

VICTORIA, VANCOUVER ISLAND, JAN. 24. I arrived in this place after an absence in California of 16 months, and am compelled, with such regret, to announce that I find a sad change for the worse, and a marked contrast to the flourishing country I have so lately left. There every interest was progressing, the country flourishing, and the commercial capital (San Francisco) growing fast in size, wealth and importance. In Victoria I find the population reduced; a large proportion of build-

ings of every class unoccupied; the rents of such as are occupied lowered in amount and many in arrear; real property sunk to a nominal value and unsaleable, except in a few exceptional cases—so low that I cannot learn of any *bona fide* sale at any price; trade dull and diminished in amount. One of the largest houses closed its business, bankruptcies numerous, and "skeddaddlers" (the modern euphuism for fugitive debtors) abundant, money scarce, and the employment of labour limited. Nothing flourishing or buoyant but taxation and Government expenditure—much of the latter on unproductive objects, and the former finding its reluctant way into the Treasury only under the coercive process of forced sales of real property by the Sheriff for delinquent taxes.

It need not be matter of surprise that the Government—which proposes or prompts, collects and expends the public money—should not be regarded with much favour in the present untoward condition of the affairs of the colony; and the Governor comes in for indiscriminate censure, causes being overlooked and effects only condemned.

The causes which produced the present unfortunate condition of affairs are not numerous, but some of them go far back into the earlier history of the colony, with which I shall not at present trespass on your space. A few of the more immediate causes to which I attribute the present depression, however, as I shall try to state them succinctly, will, I should hope, deserve your attention, affecting, as they do, a colony which, from its position, ought to command the appreciation of the Home Government on Imperial considerations, and which may be made of great commercial importance to the mother country by wise and prudent management.

You are aware that this colony of Vancouver Island and the neighbouring one of British Columbia had been for some years governed by one Governor under different political and fiscal systems, Vancouver having representative institutions and a free port, British Columbia being governed by the Governor alone, and raising its revenue from Customs' duties. On the surface these systems, so different in character, would appear antagonistic; but the one Governor was able to turn them to the advantage of both colonies. Had the last incumbent been succeeded by one Governor for both colonies, the success which had attended the former Administration might have continued. But in an evil hour, under partial knowledge of facts, and acting upon wrong impressions, engendered by misrepresentations as to both countries, the late Secretary for the Colonies determined to divide the Government, and appointed a Governor for each. This step at once struck a blow at the prosperity of both colonies. From the moment the change of Government was known in this colony it made the mercantile community uneasy, capitalists timid and cautious, and the general public distrustful of the future or afraid that some undefined misfortune would happen. To account for these effects I should mention that the trade of Victoria was chiefly with British Columbia, and that the capital with which the enterprise of the latter colony had been sustained was chiefly supplied by Victoria.

The change of Government was aggravated, or rather the bad effects of the change were aggravated by the peculiar circumstances of Victoria at the time the change occurred, and by the further action of the Home Government in adding to the expense of Government. Up to this time, since the discovery of gold in 1858, a large amount of capital had been invested in building up a town at Victoria. Land rose greatly in price, and rents were high, and so was the interest of money, yet time sufficient had not yet elapsed to enable property owners to reap the benefit of their investments. The place was flourishing, but the outlay was in excess of the legitimate return, speaking generally. The town was continually growing, but few had realized their investments; and the gains on real property and on commerce were reaped only in the most prudent, so that at the particular period I am writing of money was rather scarce, and besides, the landowners were feeling keenly the weight of the direct taxation, imposed to maintain the free port system and to do without Customs' duties. So much for the state and condition of one class.

At the same period the commercial classes were overtrading, had previously overtraded, and had extended their credit in British Columbia beyond prudent bounds. There was much money due to them which they could not recover, yet they presented a bold front to the world and held up in hope of better times, and instead of being depressed by the present or despondent of the future, their faith in the resources of both colonies was so strong that they embarked in many schemes of a speculative character, such as investments in copper mines, silver mines, and mining canals, and other which drained them of, to say the least, all their ready money. Investments in these schemes were not confined to commercial men. Others went into them, and many borrowed money to go in with.

It would hardly be too strong a figure of speech to say, if I were to say that at the period I have in my mind the people of Victoria had recovered from their struggle to subdue the wilderness, had built a respectable town, had established a lucrative commerce by the joint efforts of English and Americans, owned ships and steamers, and were looking forward to the realization of their brightest hopes; but that they overlooked the possible fate of going too fast; that they forgot the too frequent consequences of over-trading, of over-speculation—namely, reaction.

Now, it is easy enough to conceive that this peculiar condition required gentle treatment. The direct taxation was not limited to the landholders. The merchants and traders, and shopkeepers felt it also, and when money was scarce winced under the pinch of it. But although the taxes were really heavy the people saw and appreciated the fact that the *per capita* of Government was very economical; that their Governor was a man of uncommon industry and a hard worker; and that the bulk of the taxes were expended upon works of a permanent character, such as roads and other improvements; while the Governor had for himself the insignificant salary from the Colony of £800 a year, although he provided himself with a house without cost to the colony.

No wonder that people who had to maintain the expenses of Government should view with some misgivings the advent of a new Governor. This was a time which required a practiced hand "to guide the vessel of the State," for the reaction I have spoken of was now to some persons becoming daily visible; and to avert its force when it should come, required the utmost prudence, temper, and good feeling on the part of the Governor, who has no Ministry to act as a "buffer" to his measures.

It was at the time when affairs were in the condition I have attempted to describe, and a most inauspicious time it was for the purpose, that the Colonial office nearly two years ago not only sent out a new Governor, strange to the real condition and ignorant of the true wants of the country, and with an over-estimate of its available resources and capacity of taxation; but, as if with a refinement of cruelty, and as if the Minister wished to place this gentleman in a false position with his "subjects," he instructed him to enforce a Civil List too expensive for this Colony under any circumstances, and most inopportune and injudicious at the particular juncture.

By this Civil List, for which the Crown lands were offered as a security, but for which they really are not an equivalent, as I shall show some other time, the Governor's salary was fixed at £3000 a year, besides a residence, which the Colonists were required to build, and which would cost £10,000. At this very time money was scarce, and the Governor was "pinched," and the reaction was approaching with redoubled steps—an unlucky moment in which to make unwelcome calls on men's purses.

In short, since the change of Government and the arrival of the two new Governors both Colonies have been going down hill fast. All sorts of schemes are proposed to remedy these evils, and the subject is under consideration by the Home Government. At first sight the most obvious cure would be Union. It looks, of course, eminently absurd to govern a handful of people not amounting in both Colonies to the population of a decent English parish there should be a Republic of the two Colonies, or a Republic of two Governors, two Colonial Secretaries; two of all the other wise and foolish men who form the staff; two of each of the persons who fall under the designation of "officers," *ad id genus omne*; two judges; two kinds of money, and two capitals.

All this is so absurd that one can scarcely discuss it seriously. But, the evil being of long standing, it is more difficult of cure than what at first appears. Had the territory the mainland been added to the already established Colony of Vancouver Island at first, no difficulty need have occurred. But British Columbia is not a very attractive bride to unite with in permanent bonds. She is deeply in debt, while her proposed consort is but slightly so. Encumbered British Columbia being a large, wide, straggling country, with a mining population shifting about periodically from one mining locality to another, and far apart, she is a very expensive govern, even with judgment and economy. To all these new mines roads in a frightful rough country must be made. They may be soon abandoned, but they must be made. There is the slightest possible inducement for a settled population. The climate is in winter excessively severe, and the summer is not so pleasant as it is in the United States. The country the benefit of only one-half of its annual expenditure. It is difficult to see how agriculture or commerce can spring into life in such a country. The single interest that has hitherto kept the country alive is mining; but her mines don't take so much. The mines are decreasing regularly every year, and it is admitted by those who best know that if next summer so small a number as 2000 miners should remain away—that is to say, if the mining population in the 2000 next season than it was last season, then the Government will not be able to subsist, or to exist for that matter. It will not have money enough to pay its staff with. Now, suppose the miners to become so reduced as to bring about this lamentable result, how would Vancouver Island fare if united to British Columbia? Very badly, with all the debts of her partner on her shoulders. With the exit of the miners all industries would vanish.

On the other hand, Victoria is so well situated for commerce with California, Mexico, Central and South America, the islands of the Pacific, everywhere; China and Japan on the one hand, and with the entire country north of this to the Amoor river on the other, that, sooner or later, this place must rise and prosper, even if British Columbia should descend and revert to the aboriginal Indians.

Victoria must become a depot of merchandise for an extensive and varied market, and the Colony is rich in natural resources of the most useful character—timber, copper, gold, lumber and fish particularly; and it is well supplied to supply a very large population, and unusually accessible by water for conveyance to market, and scenery and climate that make Vancouver Island the most charming place of residence. Then the Colony is much advanced already, and although the Victorians have suffered terribly, they never lost heart. Nothing can daunt their energy nor dash their pluck. In the worst of the late bad times they bravely kept up all their games, pastimes and amusements; their clubs, and religious and educational meetings, their military exercises, and all the routine of life of a high spirited people, in all which they were warmly seconded by the Governor, who is a most sociable, kindly disposed, and amiable man. Even some good houses have been erected since the advent of the "hard times," and one very expensive one is now being begun. Now, most people would say that with these advantages, and with such a population, having an abiding faith in the future, Vancouver might stand alone; but the majority would be satisfied to link her fate with British Columbia, conditioned on having one system, one governor, one staff, one judiciary, and one capital, and that in Victoria. Any other plan of union will fail, I believe. The old jealousy will continue.

Perhaps as good a plan as any would be for the present to return to the former system of one governor for both Colonies with their present institutions. One impartial governor over both would keep them from cutting each other's throats, any way.

I am happy to be able to report that the gold export duty, an obnoxious tax, is about to be abolished by the Government of British Columbia, to the joy of the miners and to the good of the Colony, and that new diggings, reported to be very rich, in the Columbia river in British territory, are expected to attract fresh miners to the Colony this ensuing season. I omitted to state in its appropriate place that the Legislature is pruning the Government Estimates with an eye to saving, and that Vancouver as will very greatly, I think, reduce the taxation and the public expenditure for the current year. Every one is bent on economy, and the action of the House of Assembly meets, in the main, with general approval. The Civil List, although it is not a favorite, has with good taste been left intact.

HOLLOWAY'S PILLS—Nervous Debility—Persons constitutionally weak are so much depressed by changeable weather that the ordinary efforts of life become a labor, the necessity of thinking a toil. The nervous system is unbalanced, and each day brings to such pitiable objects nothing but a succession of real or fancied miseries. To escape from such a tormented state it is only necessary to take Holloway's Pills, which purify and strengthen a debilitated, shaken constitution more than any other medicine in the world. They cleanse the body from all impurities, give tone to the stomach, regularity to the bowels, and kindle and brighten the eye, and restore to the mind decision and cheerfulness.

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## New Advertisements.

### Bark "Eastern Chief."

ALL CLAIMS AGAINST THE ABOVE named vessel must be sent in to the undersigned, on or before Tuesday, the 28th inst., as the ship will proceed to sea immediately.

JANION, GREEN & RHODES.

VICTORIA GAS COMPANY (LIMITED)

Notice to Shareholders.

THE HALF-YEARLY GENERAL MEETING of the Company will be held at the Office, at the Works, on Monday, 9th of July, at 12 m.

By order of the Board of Directors, C. W. R. THOMSON, Secretary.

JUST ARRIVED PER SCHOONER CODFISH, and stored in the warehouse.

4 Tons of Well-cured

CODFISH.

SPROAT & CO., Store street, Victoria.

June 26th, 1886.

## A Triumph of Science

AND THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD.

Dr Maggiel's PILLS AND SALVE.

These Life-giving Remedies are now, for the first time, given publicly to the world. For over a quarter of a century of private practice the ingredients in these

Life-Giving Pills!

Have been used with the greatest success. Their mission is not only to prevent disease, but to cure. They search out the various maladies by which the patient is suffering, and reorganize the failing system. To the aged and infirm a few doses of these valuable PILLS will prove to be

A VERY FOUNTAIN OF YOUTH.

For in every case they add new life and vitality, and restore the young and old to their prime state. To the young and middle-aged, they will prove most invaluable, as a healthy, specific, and strengthening medicine. Here is a

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## New Advertisements.

### New Spring Goods, 1866.

## VICTORIA HOUSE,

WHOLESALE AND RETAIL

Drapery Establishment,

BRICK BUILDING,

Corner of Fort and Douglas Streets.

Proprietors, Messrs Findlay & Durham. - - Manager, Mr Wm. Denny

The importations of the above Establishment for the present season are now complete, and comprise the following excellent assortment of Goods, all bought very recently in the London Market on the most favorable terms.

Ladies' trimmed and untrimmed HATS a d

BONNETS, newest styles; and

Girls' and Children's trimmed and untrimmed

HATS;

Bonnet Fronts, Whisker Blonds and Laces for

Bonnets;

FLOWERS, FEATHERS and ORNAMENTS... a

large assortment;

BRIDAL AND OTHER WRATHS;

Children's White Cotton Sun Hats;

RIBBONS... Plain, Lame, Exhibition, and other

new kinds;

Black Lace Falls, Parasols and Sun Shades;

Brussels, Combray and other Nets;

Valenciennes, Honiton and Maltese Laces;

LACE COLLARS, HANDKERCHIEFS and

sets;

LACE, MUSLIN and APPLIQUE CURTAINS, a

large assortment;

White Sprigged and Spotted Muslins;

Book, Jaconnet and Nainsook Muslins;

PRINTED MUSLINS...Some FRENCH, VERY

CHOICE;

Muslin Robes, with Sashes and Trimmings;

Fancy Opera Cloaks and Shawls... a large

variety;

Embroidered Poplin and Leno Robes;

Embroidered Sandringham Robes;

Black Glacé and Gros Grain Silks...all widths;

HANDSOME SATIN and MOIRE ANTIQUE

DRESSES;

Irish Poplin; Colored Silks (Cheviot and Broché)

Ladies' and Children's Black Glacé Mantles;

Ladies' Black Cloth Jackets and Mantles;

Ladies' French Cambric and Trimmed Skirts;

Ladies' Black Glacé and Gros Grain Jackets;

PRINTED CAMBRICS...FRENCH and English

assortment.







